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The following is a complete listing of all claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

**Listing of claims:**

- 1        1. (canceled)
- 1        2. (currently amended) A program processing system for performing a program process using an electronic program guide, comprising:
  - 3              a communication network;
  - 4              a program processing apparatus for executing a program process, said apparatus having
    - 6              a database for storing program reservation data identifying a reservation of particular externally broadcast programs for recording,
    - 7              means for preparing a program condition data based, at least in part, on said reservation data,
    - 10             means for receiving and storing a privacy level data program condition data control signal having at least a first value and a second value,
    - 13             means transmitting the stored privacy level data program condition data control signal through said communication network,
    - 14             and
    - 16             means for transmitting, based at least in part on said privacy level data program condition data control signal, said program condition data through said network, wherein said transmitting selectively transmits said condition data when said privacy level data program condition data control signal has said first value and is

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21 inhibited from transmitting said condition data when said privacy level  
22 data program condition data control signal has said second value;  
23 an electronic program guide preparation server, connected to said  
24 communication network, for preparing an electronic program guide,  
25 wherein said electronic program guide preparation server includes  
26 reception means for receiving said privacy level data program condition data  
27 control signal and said condition data through said communication network,  
28 means for preparing an electronic program guide including a display form  
29 showing a reservation current status of each of the externally broadcast  
30 programs based on said received condition data, and transmission means for  
31 transmitting the prepared electronic program guide, including the display  
32 form. to said program processing apparatus,  
33 wherein said program processing apparatus further includes  
34 means for displaying the electronic program guide received through  
35 said communication network, wherein the program guide displays said current  
36 status for each said program displayed, and wherein user selection of a  
37 program displays a selection section for performing a process prompting the  
38 user to select recording options available for the program in accordance with  
39 said current status,  
40 means for recording said externally broadcast programs,  
41 a recorded program database for storing information identifying  
42 externally broadcast programs that have been recorded by said means for  
43 recording said externally broadcast programs,  
44 a program playback section for retrieving and playing externally  
45 broadcast programs stored in said recorded program database;  
46 inputting means for receiving user commands relating to the electronic  
47 program guide displayed by said means for displaying the electronic program  
48 guide received from said electronic program guide preparation server, wherein

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49        said receiving includes receiving user commands identifying an acquisition  
50        period associated with said electronic program guide, said acquisition period  
51        being a period within which a plurality of programs within said program guide  
52        may be broadcast; and

53                an operating instruction section for controlling said program playback  
54        section based on said electronic program guide displayed by said means for  
55        displaying and further based on said user commands,

56                wherein said preparing performed by said means for preparing a  
57        program condition data includes preparing the program condition data further  
58        based on said information stored in said recorded program database  
59        identifying externally broadcast programs that have been recorded, and

60                wherein said preparing performed by said means for preparing an  
61        electronic program guide further includes;

62                identifying a present date and time from an external clock;

63                determining, based on the identified present date and time and the  
64        user-input acquisition period received at said inputting means, a time relation  
65        of the identified present time and the user-input acquisition period as being  
66        one of the identified present date and time being within the user-input  
67        acquisition period, the user-input acquisition period being earlier than the  
68        identified present date and time, and the identified user-input acquisition  
69        period being later than the identified present date and time,

70                determining, in response to determining the identified present date and  
71        time being within the user-input acquisition period, whether or not a program  
72        within the user-input acquisition period is being currently recorded,

73                confirming, in response to determining the user-input acquisition  
74        period as earlier than the identified present time, stored information in the  
75        recorded program database relating to recorded programs within the user-  
76        input acquisition period, and

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77                confirming, in response to determining the user-input acquisition  
78        period as later than the identified present time, stored information in the  
79        database for storing program reservation data relating to programs within the  
80        user-input acquisition period.

1        3-15. (canceled)

1        16. (previously presented) The program processing system of claim 2,  
2        wherein a monetary consideration which, differs depending upon said privacy  
3        level data sent from said program processing apparatus, is imposed for said  
4        electronic program guide preparation server sending said electronic guide to  
5        said program processing apparatus.

1        17. (currently amended) The program processing system of claim 2, wherein  
2        said preparing performed by said means for preparing an electronic program  
3        includes, in response to said determining whether or not a program within the  
4        user-input acquisition period is being currently recorded determining the  
5        identified present date and time being within the user-input acquisition period,  
6        identifying for at least one program within the user-input acquisition period  
7        whether or not the program is being recorded, and displaying a corresponding  
8        information on said means for displaying the electronic program guide.

1        18. (previously presented) The program processing system of claim 17,  
2        wherein said displaying a corresponding information includes displaying, in  
3        response to identifying the program being recorded, a request for a user input  
4        command regarding the recording.

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- 1        19. (previously presented) The program processing system of claim 17,  
2        wherein said displaying a corresponding information includes displaying, in  
3        response to identifying the program being not recorded, a request for a user  
4        input command to record the program.
  
- 1        20. (previously presented) The program processing system of claim 19,  
2        wherein said means for recording said externally broadcast programs detects,  
3        in response to receiving the user input command to record the program,  
4        whether another program is being recorded and, in response detecting another  
5        program being recorded, displays on said means for displaying the electronic  
6        program guide a request for a user input command for selecting a program.
  
- 1        21. (previously presented) The program processing system of claim 2,  
2        wherein said confirming performed in response to determining the user-input  
3        acquisition period as earlier than the identified present time of a stored  
4        information in the recorded program database includes acquiring, from the  
5        recorded program database, a present situation information regarding a  
6        recorded status and a broadcast time of at least one program within the  
7        user-input acquisition period.
  
- 1        22. (previously presented) The program processing system of claim 2,  
2        wherein said confirming performed in response to determining the user-input  
3        acquisition period as later than the identified present time of a stored  
4        information in the recorded program database includes acquiring, from the  
5        database for storing program reservation data, a present situation information  
6        regarding a reservation status of at least one program within the user-input  
7        acquisition period.

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- 1        23. (previously presented) The program processing system of claim 2,  
2        wherein preparing performed by said means for preparing an electronic  
3        program guide includes receiving user preferences regarding a format for  
4        displaying present situations of channels within said user-input acquisition  
5        period, and preparing said electronic program guide for particularly display of  
6        the electronic program guide, on said means for displaying the electronic  
7        program guide, in accordance with said user preferences.
  
- 1        24. (previously presented) The program processing system of claim 2,  
2        wherein said preparing performed by said means for preparing an electronic  
3        program guide includes preparing the electronic format guide to display  
4        different user command options based on determining the identified present  
5        date and time being within the user-input acquisition period, the user-input  
6        acquisition period being earlier than the identified present date and time, and  
7        the identified user-input acquisition period being later than the identified  
8        present date and time.